



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

SEXUAL PREDATOR SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON

Virginia man had three prior convictions

ROANOKE, Va. -- United States Attorney John L. Brownlee and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Allan Doody announced today that Dennis Mills, age 48, of Catawba, Virginia, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for receiving child pornography through the United States Mail. Mills is a three time convicted sex offender.

"Today's 15 year sentence ensures that Mr. Mills will be in prison well into his sixties," said United States Attorney John Brownlee. "The sentence imposed by the court appropriately recognizes the grave societal danger posed by child predators."

Mills pled guilty in May to receiving child pornography through the U.S. Mail.

Mills has three prior convictions for aggravated sexual battery to minors. Mills victimized two boys through the Big Brothers program.

On February 20, 2003, agents executed a search warrant of a U.S. based internet server. Mill's name was found as a subscriber to a child pornography website. A mail sting was executed, sending to hundreds of people in Virginia catalogues where they could purchase pornography, including child pornography through a fictitious company called "4-Reel Videos."

On September 7, 2004 agents mailed the catalogue to Mills. Within days, Mills responded to the mailing and requested a catalogue for child pornography. On September 14, 2004, Mills ordered the child pornography videos involving preteen boys and young boys. Mills sent a check to agents for \$50.00 for the videos.

When a search warrant was executed on Mills home in Catawba, agents found hundreds of images of child pornography on Mills' computer, and a list of several pornography websites.

"Those who believe they can use the perceived anonymity of the Internet to trade in the exploitation of children are sorely mistaken," said Doody of the Washington, DC, ICE office, which oversees investigations in Virginia. "ICE and our law enforcement partners are committed to identifying these individuals and bringing them to justice."

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Assistant United States Attorney C. Patrick Hogeboom prosecuted the case. Mills was sentenced by Judge James Turk in United States District Court in Roanoke.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.